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agriculture about 1800. The first chapter describes the technical and economic conditions affecting the chief products of agriculture; a second describes the organization in regard to land tenure and leadership; and a third describes the feudal charges on agriculturists, and discusses their economic, social and political effects. The book is based on an imposing array of printed sources (pp. 215-230), and also on manuscript material from the federal and provincial archives. A tendency to grandiloquence appearing in the more general passages does not impair the practical quality of the bulk of the work, which is executed with a judgment and precision that testify to excellent scientific training, and give good promise for the future.

Swiss agriculture at the end of the old régime was marked by the relative importance of the pastoral element compared with the arable, and by the predominance of small peasant properties. The proprietors were often in debt, and labored generally under feudal charges, of which the oppression was felt more keenly as the cultivators began to produce for the market, and sought to improve their methods of production. The opposing interests of debtor and creditor, of country people and city people, roused the peasants to a consciousness of class, and made them ripe for a revolutionary movement, when this began among the enlightened members of the city population.

In this substantial book the author has made a mere beginning on the comprehensive project, which would include similar studies of Swiss industry and trade, social classes, and social and political movements. We hope the project may be continued and completed.

CLIVE DAY.

*Die schweizerischen Industrien im internationalen Konkurrenzkampfe.* By DR. PETER HEINRICH SCHMIDT. (Zurich: Art. Institut Orell Füssli. 1912. Pp. 297. 6 m.)

In the first part, the author reviews in a suggestive rather than in an exhaustive and comprehensive way the geographic location of Switzerland, its natural resources, its laboring population, its capital and its importations of large quantities of raw materials and of coal. He also discusses the influx of foreign workmen. Dr. Schmidt views the latter with apprehension; however, he expresses the conviction that the tendency towards large-scale

production will be checked, thus dispensing with the necessity for drawing upon foreign unskilled labor. The Swiss have succeeded because of their intelligent specialization where quality of the work counts. Natural conditions surrounding their manufacturing activity prevent them from underselling; therefore their competitive strength will remain, as it has always been, in their characteristic workmanship.

Part II deals with the struggle for markets; here the author reviews the leading Swiss industries, those producing for domestic consumption and those relying mainly upon export trade; he gives a brief history of each industry, shows its present status and forecasts its probable future. The Swiss conquest of the foreign markets has been due less to governmental aid and concerted action than to individual enterprise.

Throughout the book Dr. Schmidt devotes much attention to an enunciation of the principles of theoretical economics and of economic geography. At times his reasoning seems to be influenced by his desire to prove his case; thus, on page 106 he makes the unqualified statement that the differences in the cost of production between various countries are due mostly to differences in the scale of wages, the wage representing the greatest item of productive cost; on page 186, discussing the same problem, he enumerates the many variables which enter into the valuation of a finished commodity and finds some of these unsusceptible of a quantitative analysis; on page 267 he admits that a low wage and a low standard of living denote a lower efficiency of labor; in the case of high grade products there is little to fear from the competition of those countries where the laborers are poorly paid. The author is of the opinion that the industrialisation of such countries as formerly produced only raw materials should be welcomed by the Swiss; it means the increase of their purchasing power and a better outlet for Swiss products.

The book is lucid in style and holds one's attention. It is to be regretted that, in his desire to be of interest to the general reader, Dr. Schmidt omitted from his text such data (statistical and other) as would have shown the means by which he arrived at most of his conclusions, and would have given a more precise knowledge of Swiss commerce.

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